

Perspectives in Military History

49th Annual Lecture Series

Forty-Seven Days: How Pershing's Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the German Army in World War I

Dr. Mitchell Yockelson

Historian

In the early days of November 1918, over a million of General John “Black Jack” Pershing’s doughboys emerged victorious from the bloody mists of the Argonne Forest. The battle, lasting 47 devastating days, was the largest Allied offensive of the largest war the world had yet seen. The shocking butcher’s bill tallied more than 26,000 Americans dead on the field, and nearly 100,000 more being transported to the hospital. The toughness of the American Soldiers, coupled with Pershing’s exemplary leadership, demonstrated to the world, and especially the German adversary, the formerly untested American Army had come of age.

Based on his recent book, *Forty-Seven Days: How Pershing's Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the German Army in World War I*, Dr. Mitchell Yockelson will lecture on General Pershing’s leadership during the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne. The talk will center on Pershing’s management of the American Expeditionary Forces’ First Army during the struggle. He will discuss how, through excellent leadership, the Americans accomplished what the French and British failed to do over the preceding four years: beat the Germans.

Dr. Mitchell Yockelson is the author of *Forty-Seven Days: How Pershing's Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the German Army in World War I*; *Borrowed Soldiers: Americans under British Command, 1918*; *MacArthur: America's General*; and *Grant: Savior of the Union*. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, and he has appeared on 60 Minutes, Fox News, PBS, and the History Channel. He has received the Army Historical Foundation’s Distinguished Writing Award and earned his doctorate from the Royal Military College of Science, Cranfield University, in the United Kingdom. Yockelson is an investigative archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration, historical advisor to the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission, and former professor of military history at the United States Naval Academy. He leads World War I battlefield tours for the Smithsonian Journeys and *New York Times* Journeys series, and frequently lectures on military history.

DATE: Wednesday, May 18, 2016

TIME: Doors open at 6:30 PM and the talk begins at 7:15 PM

PLACE: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multi-Purpose Room

For updates and any last-minute changes in “Perspectives” meeting times and places, please check the USAHEC homepage: www.USAHEC.org or call the Information Desk: (717) 245-3972.